

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

PART II

STUDY NUMBER NINE

2 Samuel 1:1-2:32

Here's a brief summary of the past eight studies to bring you up-to-speed to where we are.

David is a sanguine-melancholy. That means you would love him if he walked into the room, he is enthusiastic, a good conversationalist, warm and friendly.

The melancholy side of him is the perfectionist side. It is the side also that is pessimistic. It is the arty side of him, the musician.

You will love him and you will relate to him in this study.

He is anointed at age 16. He is immediately on call in the palace for concerts to subdue Saul, who was the present king, in times of fits of insanity.

In the second study he is plunged into national prominence because he slays the giant from Gath by the name of Goliath.

In study number 3 Saul cannot cope with the popularity of the hit song, *Saul has slain his thousands and David his tens of thousands*, that was too much for Saul. He tried unsuccessfully three times to kill David. Saul put David on the most wanted list.

David had to leave his wife Michal in Gibeah, and flee to Ramah to be with Samuel the prophet who had anointed him.

David then lies to Ahimelech the priest and flees down to the land of the Philistines, feigns insanity there because they were trying to kill him as well.

He came back up to the cave of Adullam in study number 4 and his life totally changed.

David finally learns to turn it all over to the Lord and things really begins to work.

David is different in the 5th study.

“He is a man who inquires of the Lord,” and that was one of our neat phrases.

And, “Bring the ephod, I want to know what the Lord is going to say in this matter.”

In the next several studies there are a number of things that happen.

Saul continues to try and find David and to kill him. In fact one day at En Gedi Saul came into the cave where David and his men

were hiding. And David instead of lifting his hand against Saul he simply slices off a part of his robe and Saul promises not to pursue him anymore.

But that is just a short time because two years later we see them again in a situation where David could have taken his life but he chose not to do that.

We had one occasion when we saw David kind of lose it all. Nabal did not give him his hospitality rights and he was on his way up to take care of Nabal and he met Abigail. Abigail, a wonderful lady who had a belief in God and was a very intelligent and beautiful woman captured David's heart and David listened to what she had to say.

She went back home to tell her husband how near he came to losing his life and he had a cardiac arrest and ten days later was dead and David ended up married to Abigail.

Things went along in study number 7 to a point where we saw David get so tired. He is almost 30 years old now. He was 16 when this anointing took place and he is just tired. He does not want to fight anymore. And so he chooses to flee into the land of the Philistines. And while he is in the land

of the Philistines Achish, the king of Gath, gives him a little town called Ziklag. And Ziklag is the place where David ends up, with all of his men residing in the land of the Philistines.

The study today opens in Ziklag. David had one problem.

Achish comes to David and says, "I want you to know I am going to fight Saul and the forces of Israel and you are going to want to go with us. I know you are going to want to do that."

David is between a rock and a hard place. I mean, what do you do? You are anointed to be king over Israel and now you are with the enemy and they are going to go up and fight against Israel.

Well they traveled about 60 miles north to a little town called Aphek. They are 35 miles from the forces of Saul ready to go to battle.

And the commanders say we are not taking those Hebrews with us. "As soon as we go into battle David would gain points with Saul by coming up from behind and whipping us, we are not taking them."

So Achish comes and says, "David I am really sorry you guys are going to have to just go on back

to Ziklag. So the men turn around. They have just made a 60-mile trip north and for nothing.

So they start heading back to Ziklag. When they get back to Ziklag the Amalekites have been there, they have burned the whole city, taken captive all the wives and children, and David stands there in tears over the ruins of the city, a city which he had built in enemy territory.

He pursues the Amalekites and recovers everything and the story ends.

That is where we left him in the city of Ziklag.

As the scene opens today remember all the forces of Israel are fighting the Philistines up somewhere around 95 miles to the north. And that has happened while David and his men have come back to Ziklag and pursued the Amalekites.

As the study opens, David is in fellowship with the Lord.

v. 1 After the death of Saul, David returned from defeating the Amalekites and stayed in Ziklag two days.

Now David does not know yet that Saul is dead but it already has happened as far as the text is concerned.

v. 2 On the third day a man arrived from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and with dust on his head. When he came to David, he fell to the ground to pay him honor.

This guy has just taken a 95-mile trip from the field of battle all the way to Ziklag. He is described as having "clothes torn and dust on his head," indicating that he is in grief and the news is bad.

"When he came to David, he fell to the ground to pay him honor."

David looks at him and he asks three questions:

Where

What

How

v. 3 "Where have you come from?" David asked him. He answered, "I have escaped from the Israelite camp."

v. 4 "What happened?" David asked. "Tell me." He said, "The men fled from the battle. Many of them fell and died. And Saul and his son Jonathan are dead."

David has just heard the death of his best friend. And so he hears the words

"Jonathan and Saul are dead."

We also learn in 1 Samuel 31 that it is not only Jonathan but also Abinadab and Malchishua, the other two sons of Saul died along with a whole host of the army of Israel. They were totally overwhelmed.

It was Custer's last stand, a major massacre and overwhelming victory for the Philistines, and lots of bloodshed.

1 Samuel 31:1,2

“Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel, and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines and fell slain on Mt. Gilboa. And the Philistines overtook Saul and his sons, and the Philistines killed Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchishua, the sons of Saul.”

v. 5 Then David said to the young man who brought him the report, “How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?”

David asks the questions: WHERE, WHAT, and now HOW. “How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?” He here focuses just on these two.

Now he tells a story in verses 6-10.

You can formulate your own opinions okay.

You can decide whether this guy is telling the truth or he is telling a lie.

You have Biblical scholars on both sides of the fence.

v. 6 “I happened to be on Mount Gilboa,” the young man said, “and there was Saul, leaning on his spear, with the chariots and riders almost upon him.

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v. 7 When he turned around and saw me, he called out to me, and I said, ‘What can I do?’

v. 8 “He asked me, ‘Who are you?’ ‘An Amalekite,’ I answered.

v. 9 “Then he said to me, ‘Stand over me and kill me! I am in the throes of death, but I’m still alive.

v. 10 “So I stood over him and killed him, because I knew after he had fallen he could not survive. And I took the crown that was on his head and the band on his arm and have brought them here to my lord.”

He pulls out the crown and the band and he hands them to David so he has the evidence now that Saul is gone.

Now, does that story sound legitimate?????

This report conflicts with the record in 1 Samuel 31:3-6

“And the battle went heavily against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was badly wounded by the archers. Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, ‘Draw your sword, and pierce me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and pierce me through and make sport of me.’ But his armor-bearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. So Saul took his sword and fell on it. And when his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword and died with him. Thus, Saul died with

his three sons, his armor-bearer, and all his men on that day together.”

Some Bible scholars believe the young man told the truth; others believe he lied. But whatever the correct version is, he took his story to the wrong man.

David had just returned from a battle with the Amalekites to retrieve all of his possessions just a few days prior to this visit.

He asked him twice where he was from. He wasn't even a citizen of Israel. He was an enemy of Israel and he had committed a crime by killing the king and his own mouth had confessed it.

I personally think the man lied. I think he stole the crown and the bracelet from Saul's dead body and brought them to David, thinking he would really get in good with David and be rewarded.

Now how does David respond to this whole thing? Verse 11.

v. 11 Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them.

This was a way of expressing immediate grief.

Just torn up inside over what has happened.

v. 12 They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the Lord and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

Having received the report, they did three things after tearing their clothes:

1. They mourned
2. They wept
3. They fasted until evening

They mourned and wept and fasted, first, for Saul, and then for Jonathan, and then the army of the Lord, and the house of Israel.

David was not happy about Saul's death.

He mourned and wept.

David had a tender heart.

He didn't bear Saul any malice.

He grieved over the king's death.

Proverbs 17:5

He who rejoices at calamity will not go unpunished."

Proverbs 24:17

"Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles."

v. 13 David said to the young man who brought him the report, “Where are you from?” “I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite,” he answered.

v.14 David asked him, “Why were you not afraid to lift your hand to destroy the Lord’s anointed?”

Why does he bring that up?

David always had a strong aversion to raising his hand against God’s anointed.

He wouldn’t let any of his men do it either.

1 Samuel 24:6

“So he said to his men, ‘Far be it for me, because of the Lord, that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord’s anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the Lord’s anointed.’”

1 Samuel 26:9-11

“But David said to Abishai, ‘Do not destroy him. For who can stretch out his hand against the Lord’s anointed and be without guilt?’ David also said, ‘As the Lord lives, surely the Lord will strike him; or his day will come that he dies; or he will go down into battle and perish. The Lord forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the Lord’s anointed. But now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go.’”

That explains why David feels the way he does toward this Amalekite on this particular occasion. If he had

known the ethics by which David operated he would have never come on a suicide mission like this to say the things he said.

v. 15 The David called one of his men and said, “Go, strike him down!” So he struck him down, and he died.

v. 16 For David had said to him, “Your blood be on your own head. Your own mouth testified against you when you said, ‘I killed the Lord’s anointed.’”

Now there is a transition in the passage. David internalizes his grief when he tears his clothes and they mourn and they weep and they fast for the whole day.

He externalizes it when he kills the Amalekite who says he is responsible for the death of Saul.

Now we are going to have a lament.

This is a public proclamation.

It is a funeral address.

It is one of the greatest messages that was ever preached as a tribute to the army of the Lord and especially to two men, Saul and Jonathan.

v. 17 David took up this lament concerning Saul and his son Jonathan.

David is so noble here.

His generous heart not only forgot all that Saul had done to him, but he remembered

all the things that were favorable in Saul's character and life.

v. 18 and ordered that the men of Judah be taught this lament of the bow (it is written in the Book of Jashar):

What does that mean, the lament of the bow?

As you know militarily they did not have iron and steel weapons that were readily available to them unless they captured them from other forces.

Saul taught his army how to use the bow and arrow. His great tribute and contribution to the armies of God was to teach them how to use the bow and arrow. And so the tribute is to the bow and arrow at this point.

v. 19 "Your glory, O Israel, lies slain on your heights. How the mighty have fallen!

David repeats this phrase three times in his lamentations:

How the mighty have fallen!	v. 19
How the mighty have fallen	v. 25
How the mighty have fallen	v. 27

What does the heights mean?

On the heights of Mt. Gilboa lay the bodies of those who had been slain in the battle with the Philistines.

Now what does David want and what is he worried about?

v. 20 “Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines be glad, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised rejoice.

David cannot stand the thought of a victory celebration in the Philistine cities of Gath and Ashkelon.

And so, in his lamentation he commands that the news not be told in these cities, lest the daughters be glad and rejoice.

David even turns to the mountain here in the next verse.

v. 21 “O mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, nor fields that yield offerings of grain. For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul—no longer rubbed with oil.

David has a picture in his mind of seeing Saul fall and his weapons laying there rusting

and deteriorating in the weather with no one to take care of them anymore because he is gone.

v. 22 From the blood of the slain, from the flesh of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, the sword of Saul did not return unsatisfied.

The thing that David remembers about Jonathan is his bow.

Remember the one time they had the bows and arrows together and Jonathan had the arrows and he shot them beyond the rock and David knew that it was time to leave Jonathan and they wept there together before David started this vagabond life being chased by Saul.

1 Samuel 20:35-37

“Now it came about in the morning that Jonathan went out into the field for the appointment with David, and a little lad was with him. And he said to his lad, ‘Run, find now the arrows which I am about to shoot.’ As the lad was running, he shot an arrow past him. When the lad reached the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called after the lad and said, ‘Is not the arrow beyond you?’

And Jonathan called after the lad, ‘Hurry, be quick! Do not stay.’ And Jonathan’s lad picked up the arrow and came to his master.”

v. 23 “Saul and Jonathan—in life they were loved and gracious, and in death they were not parted. They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

David says, “In life they were loved and gracious, and in death they were not parted.”

He then speaks of their swiftness and their strength:

“They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.”

The swiftness of the eagle and the strength of the lion were the leading characteristics of the great heroes of Biblical times.”

v. 24 “O daughters of Israel, weep for Saul, who clothed you in scarlet and finery, who adorned your garments with ornaments of gold.

Back in verse 20 he does not want the news to get to the women of Gath and Ashkelon. Now his command to the daughters of Israel is to weep for Saul.

David speaks about their clothing, which Saul had made possible for them. Since Saul emphasized the external, clothes were so important to him.

Peter argues with that. In 1 Peter 3 he says:

1 Peter 3:3,4

“And let not your adornment be external only, braiding the hair and wearing gold jewelry and putting on dresses. But let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit which is precious in the sight of God.”

v. 25 “How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights.

v. 26 I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother: you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women.

David refers to Jonathan as his brother. He was his brother-in-law by relationship because of his marriage to Michal.

But he was a brother by the covenant of friendship, which they established early in their relationship. There have been three deaths in David's life in the past little while that have marked him deeply:

1. SAMUEL'S DEATH – The elderly prophet who anointed him at 16.

- 2, 3. And now a double blow in the deaths of SAUL AND JONATHAN.

v. 27 “How the mighty have fallen! The weapons of war have perished!”

And that ends his lament.

v. 1 In the course of time, David inquired of the Lord. “Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?” he asked. The Lord said, “Go up.” David asked, “Where shall I go?” “To Hebron,” the Lord answered.

“David inquired of the Lord,” there is your phrase. Great, David, you are back in fellowship with the Lord.

Hebron, that is just 15 miles northwest of Ziklag. It is in the southern region of the tribe of Judah but it is centrally located.

It is an Old Testament city of refuge.
Abraham and Sarah are buried here.
Isaac and Rebekah are buried here.
Jacob and Leah are buried here.
Joseph is buried here.

This is a critical city in the history of Israel.
It means communion.
It means fellowship and alliance.
He is going back to this very special city.

v. 2 So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel

Immediately, David is obedient to the command of the Lord.

v. 3 David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they settled in Hebron and its towns.

Remember all 600 men went down there with him.

v. 4 Then the men of Judah came to Hebron and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. When David was told that it was the men of Jabesh Gilead who had buried Saul

David was anointed by Samuel when he was 16 years of age, and here he is anointed by the men of Judah the second time. This anointing is for David to become king over the house of Judah.

Although this is not all that God had promised David, it is a large installment.

Judah was the largest tribe with the largest territory in the nation.

Also, it is the royal tribe, through whom Christ is going to come.

The rest of verse 4 says, “When David was told that it was the men of Jabesh Gilead who had buried Saul,”

Saul's first military campaign was to deliver the people from Jabesh Gilead from the Ammonites.

Now in deep appreciation for that courageous act of Saul, the men of Jabesh Gilead (which is 65 miles northeast from Hebron) had gone and gotten Saul's body and buried him.

v. 5 he sent messengers to the men of Jabesh Gilead to say to them. "The Lord bless you for showing this kindness to Saul your master by burying him.

v. 6 May the Lord now show you kindness and faithfulness, and I too will show you the same favor because you have done this.

v. 7 Now then, be strong and brave, for Saul your master is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

v. 8 Meanwhile, Abner son of Ner, the commander of Saul's army, had taken Ish-Bosheth son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim.

Abner was Saul's first cousin.

He was also Saul's general and he was very ambitious.

He was not about to allow David to become king of Israel, although he too knew that it was

God's will.

Abner never had any love for David.

He was jealous and he wanted to retain his place of power.

Abner takes Ish-Bosheth, Saul's son, and brings him over to Mahanaim, which is a town about 65 miles northeast of Hebron, and very close in the proximity of Jabesh Gilead, on the east side of the Jordan River.

v. 9 He made him king over Gilead, Ashuri and Jezreel, and also over Ephraim, Benjamin and all Israel.

The geographical boundaries of the kingdom of Ish-Bosheth is described here in verse 9.

v. 10 Ish-Bosheth son of Saul was forty years old when he became king over Israel, and reigned two years. The house of Judah, however, followed David.

You have a nation divided against itself.

And that brings civil war.

Abner and Ish-Bosheth in the north make a power play.

v. 11 The length of time David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

v. 12 Abner son of Ner, together with the men of Ish-Bosheth, son of Saul, left Mahanaim and went to Gibeon.

Gibeon is on the southern border of Benjamin. Benjamin and Judah are attached.

The borders adjoined.

They come down as close as they can to Judah and they stop at Gibeon, that is 23 miles from Hebron. They are looking for a fight and so we are going to have one.

v. 13 Joab, son of Zeruah and David's men went out and met them at the pool of Gibeon. One group sat down on one side of the pool and one group on the other side.

v. 14 Then Abner said to Joab, "Let's have some of the young men get up and fight hand to hand in front of us." All right, let them do it," Joab said.

Abner is the starter of this.

We are going to have 12 guys stand up on one side and 12 guys on the other side and we will let them fight and the survivors are the winners who take all. And we will settle the whole thing right here and Joab says that is a good deal.

All right, let them do it.

However he did not know what was going to happen.

v. 15 So they stood up and were counted off—twelve men for Benjamin and Ish-Bosheth son of Saul and twelve for David.

v. 16 Then each man grabbed his opponent by the head and thrust his dagger into his opponent's side and they fell down together. So that place in Gibeon was called Helkath Hazzurim.

“The field of sword edges”

Because the contest was a draw, a general fight ensued.

v. 17 The battle that day was very fierce, and Abner and the men of Israel were defeated by David's men.

v. 18 The three sons of Zeruah were there: Joab, Abishai and Asahel. Now Asahel, was as fleet-footed as a wild gazelle.

Who is Zeruah?

Remember, that is David's sister.

Asahel was the marathoner in David's time.

He was the Michael Johnson of his day.

v. 19 He chased Abner, turning neither to the right nor to the left as he pursued him.

v. 20 Abner looked behind him and asked, “Is that you, Asahel?” “It is,” he answered.

I am coming over your left shoulder.

v. 21 Then Abner said to him, “Turn aside to the right or to the left; take on one of the young men and strip him of his weapons.” But Asahel would not stop chasing him.

v. 22 Again Abner warned Asahel, “Stop chasing me! Why should I strike you down? How could I look your brother Joab in the face?”

Now Abner issues his second warning, which also goes unheeded.

v. 23 But Asahel refused to give up the pursuit; so Abner thrust the butt of his spear into Asahel’s stomach, and the spear came out through his back. He fell there and died on the spot. And every man stopped when he came to the place where Asahel had fallen and died.

v. 24 But Joab and Abishai pursued Abner, and as the sun was setting, they came to the hill of Ammah, near Giah on the way to the wasteland of Gibeon.

Joab and Abishai are ticked now.

v. 25 Then the men of Benjamin rallied behind Abner. They formed themselves into a group and took their stand on top of a hill.

v. 26 Abner called out to Joab, “Must the sword devour forever? Don’t you realize that this will end in bitterness? How long before you order your men to stop pursuing their brothers?”

Abner has three questions:

1. “Must the sword devour forever?”
2. “Don’t you realize that this will end in bitterness?”
3. “How long before you order your men to stop pursuing their brothers?”

v. 27 Joab answered, “As surely as God lives, if you had not spoken, the men would have continued the pursuit of their brothers until morning.”

v. 28 So Joab blew the trumpet, and all the men came to a halt; they no longer pursued Israel, nor did they fight anymore.

v. 29 All that night Abner and his men marched through the Arabah. They crossed the Jordan, continued through the whole Bithron and came to Mahanaim.

That is a 43-mile trip these guys took at nightfall.

v. 30 Then Joab returned from pursuing Abner and assembled all his men. Besides Asahel, nineteen of David’s men were found missing.

v. 31 But David's men had killed three hundred and sixty Benjamites who were with Abner.

The casualty list for Abner and his men is substantially longer.

A total of 360, or 340 more than David lost in this civil war.

v. 32 They took Asahel and buried him in his father's tomb at Bethlehem. Then Joab and his men marched all night and arrived at Hebron by daybreak.

Zeruiah, David's sister, evidently married some local fellow from Bethlehem and had these three sons.

This is just a beginning of a long civil conflict before David comes to the throne.

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: A house divided against itself cannot stand.

LESSON #2: David demonstrates that he is back in fellowship with God because he inquired of the Lord.

LESSON #3: If Saul were killed by an Amalekite, then **his** prior disobedience brought about his own demise.

LESSON #4: David has learned not to take matters into **his** own hands but to wait upon the Lord.

Have you learned that yet?
Have you really learned to turn to the Lord and allow him to lead you and direct you?

LESSON #5: When people die, it is the right thing to remember the good times.

David does that here for Saul and Jonathan.

LESSON #6: The Lord is wonderfully good to those who will wait for him.

LESSON #7: The throne will not be possessed without conflict.

Psalm 37:3-5

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord; and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust also in him; and he will do it.”

Psalm 147:11

“The Lord favors those who fear him, those who wait for his loving kindness.”

Og Mandino wrote this and I think it says it well and ought to be our attitude.

Og Mandino writes, “I will never consider defeat, and will remove from my vocabulary such words and phrases as quit, cannot, unable, impossible, out of the question, improbable, failure, unworkable, hopeless, and retreat—for they are the words of fools.

I will avoid despair, but if this disease of the mind should infect me, then I will work on in despair.

I will toil and I will endure.

I will ignore the obstacles at my feet,
and keep my eyes in the goals above my head;
for I know that where dry desert ends,
green grass grows.

I will forget the happenings of the day that is gone, whether they were good or bad,
and greet the new sun with confidence that this will be the best day of my life.”

Lessons Learned In The Life of David

PART II

STUDY NUMBER NINE - 2 Samuel 1:1-2:32

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v.23 Saul and Jonathan--in life they were loved and gracious, and in death they were not parted. They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

v.24 O daughters of Israel, weep for Saul, who clothed you in scarlet and

finery, who adorned your garments with ornaments of gold.

v.25 How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights.

v.26 I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women.

v.27 How the mighty have fallen! The weapons of war have perished!"

2:v. 1 In the course of time, David inquired of the Lord. "Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?" he asked. The Lord said, "Go up." David asked, "Where shall I go?" "To Hebron," the Lord answered.

v. 2 So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel.

v. 3 David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they settled in Hebron and its towns.

v. 4 Then the men of Judah came to Hebron and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. When David was told that it was the men of Jabesh Gilead who had buried Saul,

v. 5 he sent messengers to the men of Jabesh Gilead to say to them, "The Lord bless you for showing this kindness to Saul your master by burying him.

v. 6 May the Lord now show you kindness and faithfulness, and I too will show you the same favor because you have done this.

v. 7 Now then, be strong and brave, for Saul your master is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

v. 8 Meanwhile, Abner son of Ner, the commander of Saul's army, had taken Ish-Bosheth son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim.

v. 9 He made him king over Gilead, Ashuri and Jezreel, and also over Ephraim, Benjamin and all Israel.

v.10 Ish-Bosheth son of Saul was forty years old when he became king over Israel, and he reigned two years. The house of Judah, however, followed David.

v.11 The length of time David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

v.12 Abner son of Ner, together with the men of Ish-Bosheth son of Saul, left Mahanaim and went to Gibeon.

v.13 Joab son of Zeruiah and David's men went out and met them at the pool of Gibeon. One group sat down on one side of the pool and one group on the other side.

v.14 Then Abner said to Joab, "Let's have some of the young men get up and fight hand to hand in front of us." "All right, let them do it," Joab said.

v.15 So they stood up and were counted off--twelve men for Benjamin and Ish-Bosheth son of Saul, and twelve for David.

v.16 Then each man grabbed his opponent by the head and thrust his dagger into his opponent's side, and they fell down together. So that place in Gibeon was called Helkath Hazzurim.

v.17 The battle that day was very fierce, and Abner and the men of Israel were defeated by David's men.

v.18 The three sons of Zeruiah were there: Joab, Abishai and Asahel. Now Asahel was as fleet-footed as a wild gazelle.

v.19 He chased Abner, turning neither to the right nor to the left as he pursued him.

v.20 Abner looked behind him and asked, "Is that you, Asahel?" "It is," he answered.

v.21 Then Abner said to him, "Turn aside to the right or to the left: take on one of the young men and strip him of his weapons." But Asahel would not stop chasing him.

v.22 Again Abner warned Asahel, "Stop chasing me! Why should I strike you

down? How could I look your brother Joab in the face?"

v.23 But Asahel refused to give up the pursuit; so Abner thrust the butt of his spear into Asahel's stomach, and the spear came out through his back. He fell there and died on the spot. And every man stopped when he came to the place where Asahel had fallen and died.

v.24 But Joab and Abishai pursued Abner, and as the sun was setting, they came to the hill of Ammah, near Giah on the way to the wasteland of Gibeon.

v.25 Then the men of Benjamin rallied behind Abner. They formed themselves into a group and took their stand on top of a hill.

v.26 Abner called out to Joab, "Must the sword devour forever? Don't you realize that this will end in bitterness? How long before you order your men to stop pursuing their brothers?"

v.27 Joab answered, "As surely as God lives, if you had not spoken, the men would have continued the pursuit of their brothers until morning."

v.28 So Joab blew the trumpet, and all the men came to a halt; they no longer pursued Israel, nor did they fight anymore.

v.29 All that night Abner and his men marched through the Arabah. They crossed the Jordan, continued through the whole Bithron and came to Mahanaim.

v.30 Then Joab returned from pursuing Abner and assembled all his men. Besides Asahel, nineteen of David's men were found missing.

v.31 But David's men had killed three hundred and sixty Benjamites who were with Abner.

v.32 They took Asahel and buried him in his father's tomb at Bethlehem. Then Joab and his men marched all night and arrived at Hebron by daybreak.

Lessons Learned In The Life Of David:

STUDY NUMBER NINE - 2 Samuel 1:1-2:32

LESSON #1: A house divided against itself cannot stand.

LESSON #2: David demonstrates that he is back in fellowship with God because he inquired of the Lord.

LESSON #3: If Saul were killed by an Amalekite, then his prior disobedience brought about his own demise.

LESSON #4: David has learned not to take matters into his own hands but to wait upon the Lord.

LESSON #5: When people die, it is the right thing to remember the good times.

LESSON #6: The Lord is wonderfully good to those who will wait for Him.

LESSON #7: The throne will not be possessed without conflict.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Samuel 1:1-2:32 several times and in your own words outline what is happening in the life of David.
2. How does David hear of the death of Saul and Jonathan?
3. What is David's response to the news of the death of Saul and Jonathan, according to verses 11 & 12?
4. Why did David command that the Amalekite be destroyed, according to verse 16?
5. How does David describe Saul and Jonathan in verse 23?

6. What significant thing happens in Hebron, according to chapter 2:4?
7. What parts do Ish-Bosheth and Abner play in the remainder of this chapter?
8. Who is Asahel and what happened to him in the passage?
9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?
10. What lesson have you learned from this study?